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## **Sen. Justus' Abandoned Property Bill Passes Senate**

### ***Legislation Would Help Clean Up Abandoned Buildings***

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Senate today gave final approval to Senate Bill 670, sponsored by Sen. Jolie Justus, D-Kansas City. The measure is aimed at cleaning up abandoned property in Jackson County by waiving interest and penalties on tax delinquent properties when purchased by not-for-profit organizations under the Abandoned Property Act.

“This is a tool to help neighborhoods and non-profits rehabilitate nuisance and dangerous properties,” Sen. Justus said.

The bill amends the current abandoned property statutes to remove one more obstacle for non-profit organizations that are working to rehabilitate neighborhoods. The property’s back taxes are still paid, but penalties and interest would be waived.

Sen. Justus stated the idea for the bill came from neighborhood groups who are reporting a huge increase in abandoned buildings, “I’ve been told there are more than 7,000 vacant properties in the metro area. These are not just eyesores, they attract crime and lower property values. My bill will assist neighborhoods as they strive to become more healthy, sustainable communities.”

The Senate unanimously approved SB 670; the measure now moves to the House for similar consideration.

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